

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial comment on the labor situation, legislative and judicial acts, and contains other information of interest to the trade union movement.

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Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must be first overcome.—Dr. Johnson.

WHOLE NO. 1269

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1935

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

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## EDITORIALS

### Resumption of Child Labor

One of the most regrettable results of the edict of the Supreme Court invalidating the National Recovery Act is the inevitable resumption of child labor exploitation by antisocial employers.

According to the U. S. census of 1930 approximately 130,000 children under 16 were on the payrolls of industrial employers. By industries the number of employed children were: Textile industry, 20,000; clothing, 9,000; other branches of manufacture, 40,000; hotels, restaurants, beauty parlors and laundries, 8,000; stores, 28,000; clerical occupations, mainly errand and messenger service, 17,000.

The code of fair practice established by authority of the Recovery Act, which was destroyed by the Supreme Court decision, prohibited employment of these child workers with the exception of 14 and 15-year-old children in stores, who were permitted to work three hours a day before and after school hours.

Taking into consideration some decline in the employment of children during the depression, the National Child Labor Committee estimates that fully 100,000 minors were lured from industry by the codes.

Before the NRA, employers put around 50,000 boys and girls 16 and 17 years old to work in hazardous occupations. Saw mill and planing mill employers alone employed 12,000 minors in dangerous work. Under the NRA fair practice codes, which the Supreme Court held unconstitutional in the Federal Constitution, the employment of these 50,000 minors in occupations which menaced their life and health was prohibited.

Freedom from the "regimentation" of the NRA by the Supreme Court's edict, rubbles again the gains that thousands of children and their parents won by the wheels of industry and turn their tender bodies into interest costs and dividend checks.

Pending the ratification by 15 more States of the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution something can be done to protect the children and girls by including in Federal contracts a clause prohibiting their employment in the manufacture of the goods purchased by the Government. But the total volume of these goods is such a small portion of the output of industry that the best that can be hoped for is a small mitigation of the evil.

For the present every child labor exploiter in the country can proceed in the ghoul's work of transforming the flesh and blood and mind of children into profits with the knowledge that this inhuman activity is under the protection of the Federal Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

### Importance of Thirty-Hour-Week Bill

The necessity of promptly enacting the Black-Conspiracy Thirty-Hour-Week Bill, which would provide jobs for millions of the unemployed and remedy in part the longer work week that employers will undoubtedly seek to impose under the decision of the Supreme Court invalidating the National Recovery Act, is being emphasized by the American Federation of Labor, in commenting on the wreckage wrought by the decision.

In substantiating his contention that the Supreme Court's edict makes the passage of the thirty-hour bill "more necessary than ever," Mr. Green said:

"We were told two years ago that gains to labor through increased employment could be obtained through the code with their reduction in hours and wages. Now we find that the gains are a result of the decision of the code are out of the question. Our problem will be to find a way of restoring work to the millions not employed, as well as those who will lose their jobs because of the invalidity of the NRA.

The Black-Conspiracy Bill bars the channels of interstate commerce to certain commodities in mass manufacture workers are employed in excess of thirty hours per week, imposes the shorter hours on Government contractors and agencies receiving financial assistance from the Government, and requires employers to apply the reduction in hours without reducing wages.

### MISSOURI LABOR CONDEMNNS HIGH COURT'S VETO POWER

Urges Enactment of Labor Disputes and 30-Hour Week Bills; Re-Elects Wood as President.

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
Executive Springs, Mo.—The convention of the Missouri Federation of Labor, which was held at Executive Springs, Mo., today adopted a resolution condemning the power exercised by the United States Supreme Court in its decision on the National Recovery Act.

The resolution charged that "the present form of democratic government is being destroyed." The convention declared in favor of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution to protect child workers left defenseless by the high court's decision and urged the prompt enactment of the Wagner-Connally Labor Disputes Bill and the Black-Conspiracy Thirty-Hour Week Bill.

Congressman R. T. Wood of Springfield, Mo., selected president of the convention and Frank Murphy of Kansas City secretary. The convention of 1935 convention of labor, next year the State convention of labor, will meet in Hannibal.

### Theater Operator Boos Wages to Soothe Workers

Peru, Ill.—The wages of 100 employees in a chain of 10 theaters in Illinois cities owned by E. E. Alker had been increased 5 per cent. The move was reported to be a concession to the workers, who were becoming restless with their low pay.

### Gas Well Explosion Kills Two Workers; Six Injured

Mount Pleasant, Mich. (AP)—A gas well fire on a farm near here killed two men and injured six. The fire started when a gas well exploded, bringing in a gas flow estimated at 100,000 cubic feet per minute. The explosion brought the workers who they try to pump the well. The men injured from their severe platform on the derrick and ran to the surface. Their clothes were burned off their bodies.

### TEN MINERS KILLED

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
Falmouth, Japan, states that 10 miners were killed and 100 injured in a gas explosion in the Iryu colliery, in Falmouth, Japan. The explosion occurred at 10:30 a. m. on June 7. It is the largest explosion in the history of the colliery, which was owned by the Iryu Coal Company. The explosion was caused by the refusal of mine owners to install adequate safety equipment.

### Kenosha Dairy Workers Win Wage Increase in Walkout

Kenosha, Wis. (AP)—An arbitration settlement of their dispute with the Kenosha Dairy Company has resulted in a 13-cent wage increase for the 130 striking milk wagon drivers. The settlement was reached after a week's strike, and a week's work was resumed. The increase was announced by the company, which said that the increase will not cause an increase in the retail price of milk.

### N. Y. Jobless Are Not Required to Join Company Unions Or Act as Strikebreakers

Industrial Commissioners Will Discourage Shirking, But Will Not Use Relief Work to Lower Wages.

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
Albany, N. Y.—Although jobless persons hesitating before they decline work without good reason will be reported to the relief agencies, the public employment services of New York State will not use lower living standards or otherwise invade well-known principles of labor administration, Elmer F. Andrews, State Industrial Commissioner, announced here in a statement issued through the State Labor Department.

No report will be made, Mr. Andrews said, of employable persons who refuse work which requires them to join a company union or endangers their membership in labor organizations, or where the refusal is based on the fact that employment is at an unreasonable distance from their homes.

### N. Y. ACTORS' UNION BLOCKS SUNDAY SHOWS

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
New York, N. Y.—Frank Gilmore, president of the Actors' Equity Association, announced that the Association members in New York City cast 163 votes for full refusal to accept Sunday shows for 1935-36.

The vote was taken after a year on condition that actors were paid double wages for each Sunday performance. The vote was taken in a referendum to mean that Sunday shows would be a dead issue.

The Sunday show question must still be put to a national referendum of Equity members, but producers alarmed at the possibility of a national referendum demanded would make it impossible to make a vote of the actors.

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### INHERITANCE TAX WOULD REDUCE THIS FORTUNE

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.—The Register of Wills of the Allegheny County, Pa., announced that the estate of the late R. B. Mellon, brother of Andrew Mellon, who died June 1, 1935, left a fortune of \$118,919,716. The bulk of the fortune was in stocks and bonds. This means that for generations to come Mellon will be entitled to live in idleness on dividends and interest.

Under the Federal inheritance tax act, the bulk of the Mellon fortune would be paid to the Government and a large portion of the Mellon fortune would be paid to the Government and a large portion of the Mellon fortune would be paid to the Government.

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### Kellogg Company Continues Wage Scale and 6-Hour Day

Rattle Creek, Mich. (AP)—The Kellogg Company will continue paying its workers a 6-hour work day into four six-hour shifts, according to a statement issued by the company. "We have found this policy of shorter hours and higher wages beneficial to our employees and the company," it said. "It has enabled us to employ nearly 25 per cent more workers."

### St. Louis Garment Workers Will Strike to Protect Pay

St. Louis, Mo. (AP)—Meyer Perstein, international vice president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, declared that strikes would be called if the wages of garment workers in St. Louis were not raised to the level of the wages of garment workers in New York City.

### Atlanta Garment Workers Strike Against Wage Cut

Atlanta, Ga. (AP)—A number of employees of the Atlanta Garment Company, who were walked out in protest against a reduction in their pay from \$1.50 to \$1.25 a dozen for dresses and the lengthening of the work week from thirty-five to thirty-seven and one-half hours.

### Pay Boost for Metal Miners Given to Alloy Discontent

But Lake City, Utah (AP)—As a result of well defined discontent caused by low wages compared with the increased cost of living among metal miners, officials of the United States Bureau of Mines announced that the hours would remain the same as they were, but the wages would be increased to \$1.25 an hour. The increase was announced by the mining industry, which was destroyed by the decision of the National Recovery Act.

### Woman Shot in Jamestown Longshoremen's Strike

Kington, Jamaica—Kingston's fruit and vegetable market was closed today by longshoremen's refusal to work. In a previous clash between longshoremen and police, a woman was killed. Following the strike, authorities barred the port of Kingston to ships.

### NEW YORK UNIONS WILL FIGHT ALL WAGE CUTS

Central Bodies With One Million Members and Garment Workers' Unions, National Unions Mobilize the Step Down to Lower Living Standards.

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
New York, N. Y.—Over one million organized wage earners in New York City met the edict of the United States Supreme Court declaring the NRA unconstitutional with a determination to mobilize every unit of their strength to prevent wage cutting and a lowering of the work week by subversive employers who would the decision as giving them a free hand to lower living standards all along the line.

Included in the mobilization are the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and vicinity, which has more than 1,000,000 members, and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the Amalgamated Workers Union of America, and the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union.

Joseph Catalano, general manager of the Federation of Laborers, said that agents had been sent to visit 400 plants in the garment industry to determine if 40,000 persons, to watch for infractions of the NRA.

"Any violations in wages and hours," he said, "will be reported to the courts, which we will continue to the last of our resources."

William C. Sullivan, New York representative of the National Federation of Labor, said that a major labor problem resulting from the NRA was the reduction of the work week among workers who were organized in the garment industry and were therefore inexperienced in collective bargaining.

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### CANADA BACKS 44-HOUR WEEK ON PUBLIC WORKS

New Law Includes Contract Work—Fair Wages Policy Will Rule.

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
Ottawa, Canada—A 44-hour work week for public works was introduced in Ontario, Canada, by the new Public Works Act, which was passed by the Ontario Legislature.

In addition to making the eight-hour work week mandatory for all public works, the new law provides for the establishment of a public works board, which will be composed of representatives of the Government and of the workers.

The method used for determining the wages of public works workers will be based on the wages of workers in the same industry in the same locality.

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### Social Justice Progress Dealt Heavy Blow by Supreme Court Decision Invalidating National Recovery Act, Green Declares

Decree Wipes Out Workers' Benefits Under Code Minimum Wages, Maximum Hours, Child Labor Ban, and Free Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively.

Fundamental Principle in the Decision, A. F. of L. Head Asserts, Is the "Encroachment of the Power of the Supreme Court to Declare Laws Enacted by Congress Unconstitutional."

By A. F. of L. News Service.  
Washington, D. C.—The progress of social justice in the United States was temporarily blocked by the decision of the Supreme Court holding the NRA in violation of the Federal Constitution and denying the authority of Congress to regulate hours and wages for millions of working men and women employed in industries engaged in interstate commerce, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, asserted in the call which he issued to the members of the American Federation of Labor to meet in the National Convention of the Federation to discuss the decision.

The NRA, Green said, was a landmark in the history of the American worker, for it was the first time that the Federal Government had ever attempted to regulate the hours and wages of workers in interstate commerce.

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